

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02

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R 102050Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4762
INFO AMCONSUL TIJUANA
AMCONSUL HERMOSILLO

UNCLAS MEXICO 5974

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MX

SUBJECT: UNDOCUMENTED MIGRANTS: REPORTED ASSAULT ON MEXICAN
YOUTHS IN LOS ANGELES JAIL

1. MEXICO CITY PRESS MAY 9 CARRIED UPI ARTICLE DATED
LOS ANGELES REPORTING THAT FOUR MEXICAN ADOLESCENTS, APPAR-
ENTLY DETAINED AS WITNESSES IN A CASE AGAINST A SMUGGLER OF
ILLEGAL ALIENS, HAD BEEN ROBBED, BEATEN, AND SEXUALLY
ABUSED, BY FELLOW INMATES WHILE IN DETENTION.

2. ACCORDING TO UPI STORY, THE MEXICAN YOUTHS (WHO SPOKE NO
ENGLISH) WERE TOSSED IN A CELL WITH FOUR "HARDENED JUVENILE
DELINQUENTS" WHO FORCED THEM TO TURN OVER WHAT MONEY THEY
HAD, THEN BEAT THEM AND SUBJECT THEM TO SEXUAL ABUSES.
SUBSEQUENTLY, THE MEXICAN YOUTHS WERE FREED BY ORDER OF
FEDERAL JUDGE MALCOM LUCAS AND IMMEDIATELY PUT ACROSS THE
BORDER.

3. REPORTEDLY, FEDERAL ATTORNEY JAMES GRAY STATED THAT THE
GOVERNMENT WAS OUTRAGED BY THE INCIDENT, AND JUDGE LUCAS
ORDERED AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING
THE ARREST AND DETENTION OF THE YOUTHS. HOWEVER, UPI REPORTED
THAT ANOTHER FEDERAL OFFICIAL EXPLAINED THAT THE INCIDENT
GREW SIMPLY OUT OF A LACK OF SUITABLE FACILITIES FOR
DETENTION OF SUCH PERSONS. THE REPORT MAKES NO MENTION OF ANY
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PROSECUTION OR PUNISHMENT OF THE OFFENDERS.

4. COMMENT: THERE HAS BEEN NO EDITORIAL COMMENT SO FAR ON
THIS INCIDENT BUT IT'S DOUBTFUL THAT IT WILL GO UNNOTICED
OR THAT EDITORIAL WRITERS WILL FAIL TO DRAW A COMPARISON TO
OUR OWN COMPLAINTS ABOUT ABUSE OF U.S. PRISONERS IN
MEXICAN JAILS. IF ANY FURTHER INFO AVAILABLE TO DEPARTMENT
ON THIS INCIDENT, EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING IT.

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